



Draft Hazardous Waste Permit for the Integrated Disposal Facility

Tell Us What You Think!

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is requesting your feedback on a draft Hazardous Waste Permit for the U.S. Department of Energy's (USDOE) Integrated Disposal Facility (IDF) to be located at the Hanford Site. The draft permit will cover vitrified mixed waste disposal operations at the site.

Mixed waste is waste that has both radioactive and dangerous waste components. Vitrified waste is waste that is enclosed in glass by means of a process called vitrification. The mixed waste will be vitrified at the Hanford Site's Waste Treatment Plant and Bulk Vitrification Test and Demonstration Facility.

Additionally, Ecology will issue a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) decision for the IDF.

Background

The permittee is the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection (Owner/Operator), 2440 Stevens Center Place, Richland, Washington, 99352; and CHM2 Hill Hanford Group, Inc. (Co-Operator), 2440 Stevens Center Place, Richland, Washington, 99352.

Under the Tri-Party Agreement that governs Hanford cleanup, USDOE is required to treat waste remaining from years of nuclear production. The process outlined in the Tri-Party Agreement is vitrification. The waste treatment process treats the radioactive tank waste by separating the waste into high-level and low-activity waste streams, combining each waste stream with glass-forming materials, and melting the glass formers and waste at very high temperatures. Only the vitrified low-activity mixed waste will be disposed of at the Integrated Disposal Facility under this permit. Low-level radioactive waste (typically gloves, tools, etc that are contaminated with radionuclides) may also be disposed of in the facility. Ecology does not have permitting authority over low-level radioactive waste..

The IDF will be lined with barriers to isolate the waste. Once filled, a cover will be placed over it to ensure that the waste remains isolated.

How Can You Get Involved?

A 45-day public comment period for the draft permit and the SEPA decision will run from **May 6, 2005 to June 20, 2005**. A public hearing will be held if there is significant public interest in holding one. To request a public hearing, please contact Tim Hill, Nuclear Waste Program, 3100 Port of Benton Blvd, Richland, WA 99354, tihi461@ecy.wa.gov.

All comments received during the public comment period will be considered and responded to when Ecology issues the final permit decision.

Please send written comments to:

Draft Hazardous Waste Permit
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SEPA Decision
Melinda Brown
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Copies of the draft permit and the SEPA Decision are available for review at the Washington State Department of Ecology Richland office, 3100 Port of Benton Boulevard, Richland, Washington and at the Hanford Public Information Repositories listed below. The documents are also available on Ecology's Web site: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/>. Questions about the draft permit should be directed to Suzanne Dahl (509) 372-7892, sdah461@ecy.wa.gov. Questions about the SEPA decision should be directed to Melinda Brown, (509) 372-7886, mbro461@ecy.wa.gov.

For additional information, call the Hanford Cleanup Line at 800-321-2008.

If you have special accommodation needs, or require this document in alternative format, please contact Tim Hill, Department of Ecology at (509) 372-7908 (voice) or 1-800-833-6388 (TTY).

Hanford Public Information Repositories

Portland
Portland State University
Branford Price and Millar Library
934 SW Harrison
(503) 725-3690
Attn: Michael Bowman/Jocelyn Kramer
E-mail: bowman@lib.pdx.edu

Seattle
University of Washington
Suzzallo Library
Government Publications Division
(206) 543-4664
Attn: Eleanor Chase
E-mail: echase@u.washington.edu

Richland
U.S. Department of Energy, Public Reading Room
Washington State University, Tri-Cities
Consolidated Information Center, Room 101-L
2770 University Drive
(509) 372-7443
Attn: Janice Parthree
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